



## Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County

### Subdivision of the State of California

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*We Manage Local Government Boundaries, Evaluate Municipal Services, and Protect Agriculture*

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## WHAT IS LAFCO?

### Why / What / Who / Where

### Why are there LAFCOs?

#### Governor Edmund G. Brown's Good Idea...

- Governor declares need for a statewide growth management plan in California after taking office in 1959
  - Population grew by 1,430 daily with 65 cities and 300 special districts created in the 1950's
  - Unknown amount of agricultural land lost; State did not begin tracking land use changes until 1960
- Legislature agrees and creates Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) in 57 counties in 1963
  - LAFCOs were delegated authority to regulate city and special district boundaries going forward
  - San Francisco LAFCO was created in 2000; all 58 California counties now have a LAFCO

### What are LAFCOs' Directives and Powers?

#### The Legislature's Expectations for LAFCOs...

- Discourage urban sprawl
- Prevent premature conversion of agricultural and open space lands
- Encourage logical and orderly land uses relative to local conditions and circumstances
- Prepare studies to facilitate efficient and sustainable municipal growth and development

#### LAFCO's Regulatory and Planning Powers...

- Approve city and special district boundary changes (establishment, expansion, reduction)
- Authorize requests from cities and special districts to provide municipal services outside their boundaries
  - Typically to mitigate or prevent threats to public health and safety
- Establish and update spheres of influence for all cities and special districts
  - All boundary changes and outside service extensions must be consistent with the agency's sphere
- Prepare municipal service reviews to independently evaluate the adequacy of governmental services

### Who Makes Decisions on LAFCOs?

#### LAFCOs' Decision-Makers are Mostly Local Officials...

- Most LAFCOs comprise eight members (five regular voting members and three alternates)
  - County Supervisors; City Councilmembers; and appointed public members
- LAFCO members represent the interests of the entire county; not only their "home agency"
- Decisions are final; no outside appeal process with the exception of a standard reconsideration period

### Where is Napa LAFCO's Footprint?

#### Policy Orientation...

- Defer to County General Plan to determine appropriate site for urban uses unless otherwise merited